

USF ROTC – Focus on the Air Force



Have you ever wondered why some USF students walk around campus and show up to class wearing military uniforms? This is because those students are part of the Reserve Officer Training Corps, or better known as the ROTC program. These students will join the Army, Navy, Air Force or Marine Corps as officers upon graduation.

Focusing on Air Force Cadets, these students spend a healthy amount of time studying training guides, marching around campus, deciphering acronyms, and learning about our military's legends of air power. But, it is important to know that the cadets are students first, who must be in a full-time status and in pursuit of a bachelor's degree to ultimately become an officer.

Throughout the tenure of this cadet, a minor in Aerospace Studies is achieved while preparing the cadet to commission as a Second Lieutenant in the USAF upon receipt of their bachelor's degree. These are no easy tasks, though, for the 100+ AFROTC cadet wing here at USF.

For all cadets, each year represents a greater challenge on the road to becoming an officer. These cadets develop knowledge and skills as leaders both in and out of the classroom, and by doing so, take the college experience to another level. What they work towards is a specified career in the USAF, but to get there they must not only survive in a high tempo, high expectation environment, they must thrive in it.



With a reputation for developing quality leaders for the Air Force, AFROTC Detachment 158 challenges cadets both physically and mentally, as seen here in their yearly Ropes Course, held at the USF Campus Recreation Riverfront Park. Similar to the Air Force following its leaders at 35,000 feet, cadets follow their leaders at 30 feet in the air! In order to get through leadership problems, cadets must communicate effectively and embrace the concepts of teamwork, leadership and followership.

These concepts become second nature as the cadets' scope of responsibility increases as more time is spent in the program. Physical training, leadership labs, academic and community events are all planned and executed solely by cadets, under the supervision of six officers and enlisted Airmen. So, the next time you see cadets marching around campus don't feel too bad for them, they not only work hard, they play hard as well!